

SEN12D017

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Recruitment and Outreach Department

Summary report on Access Agreement and Widening Participation Strategic Assessment annual monitoring return to OFFA/HEFCE for 2011/12

In January 2013 the University submitted its joint Access Agreement and Widening Participation Strategic Assessment (WPSA) monitoring return for the academic year 2011-12 to OFFA and HEFCE. The return covered both the University and its franchise partners: City College Norwich and Easton and Otley College.

Monitoring return data

- ✦ additional fee income £16,997,540
- ✦ 8494 current system students paying a higher fee
- ✦ expenditure on OFFA-countable bursaries and scholarships £4,354,838 (25.6%)
- ✦ 5043 (59.4%) students in receipt of an OFFA countable bursary or scholarship
- ✦ expenditure on additional outreach activities £797,549
- ✦ total OFFA countable expenditure £5,152,387 (30.3%)
- ✦ institutional expenditure on widening participation (incl. outreach) £3,867,334

Findings from evaluation of WP activity

Two samples of activity and their indicators of success were outlined:

- ✦ Short term evaluation – Sports for Boys
- ✦ Longitudinal evaluation – residential Summer Schools

It was also noted that the University's evaluation strategy was due to be in place for 2012 as part of a revised WPSA. With WP strategy and reporting currently under review by HEFCE, a supplementary evaluation plan is therefore scheduled to be drafted for 2012/13, and will subsequently be revised in line with future adjustments to our WPSA.

A comprehensive cohort analysis is currently being undertaken under the steer of the WP Working Group. The result of this analysis will be used to help highlight areas of priority for in depth evaluation and enable resources to be targeted.

Progress against Access Agreement milestones and targets

The University was able to report that we are meeting or exceeding the majority of our milestones and targets.

Our 2012 Access Agreement highlighted that the University has experienced a sharp rise in tariff. It has been noted in previous documents to OFFA/HEFCE that a combination of increasing applications and the rise in tariff represent an additional challenge for us to keep up our performance relating to WP; in this context maintaining our position can be considered an achievement.